

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 16, 21, and 23 are amended and claims 7, 10, 22, and 24 are canceled. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 24 are objected to as being dependent on rejected based claims but would be allowable in rewritten in independent form.

Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1-6, 14-16, 18-21, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Asanoma in view of Chen. Claims 7, 8, 17, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Asanoma and Chen and further in view of Shambroom. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Asanoma, Chen, Shambroom and further in view of Morimoto. Claims 11, 12, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Asanoma, Chen and further in view of Appenzeller. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Asanoma, Chen, and further in view of Menezes. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

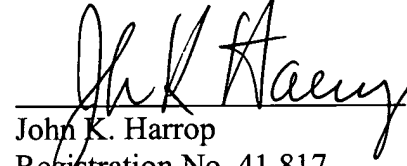
Claims 7, 10, 22, and 24 are canceled and their rejections are moot.

Claims 1, 16, and 21 are amended to overcome the above-noted rejections. Accordingly, claims 1, 16, and 21 are allowable. In addition, the claims that depend from allowable claims 1, 16, and 21 also are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-9, 11-21, 23, and 25-27 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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